

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

May 7, 2015

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Showcase Winners Come From Every District

by Jim Dickson

For the first time in eight years, each and every district had at least one statewide winner at the Innovations Challenge Showcase. The 12 showcase winners were part of 57 employee innovations on display at the showcase April 28 in Springfield. The Southeast District led all areas with a total of three showcase winners, including the People's Choice Award and the very first Director's Safety Award.



Click above to watch a video of this year's Innovations Challenge Showcase.

The road to the showcase floor started last fall with eight separate competitions across the state. A total of 117 first-round winners were then evaluated by statewide teams to choose the best of the best for the showcase. Teams of judges for each category received a preview of the innovation exhibits on April 27. Judges rated the innovations on originality, transferability, conservation of resources and organizational impact. The overall results were announced at the awards luncheon following a morning showcase that served as the opening event for the annual maintenance and program delivery meeting.

Interim Director Roberta Broeker said she attempted to "channel former Director Dave Nichols" in her selection for the first Director's Safety Award.

"I knew Dave would have chosen something that had the broadest impact on keeping our employees and the public safe," said Broeker. "I think the Material Load Indicator will keep our employees from climbing to check cinder beds and help clear roads faster for our customers."

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, who emceed the awards luncheon, said the event continues to wow him each year.

"I never cease to be amazed," said Hassinger, "at the talent and creativity our employees bring to the table. I had to judge a category this year, and they made it tough on me."

Hassinger challenged employees in all areas of the organization to put the innovations to work.

"If we don't do that, we haven't really gained anything."

Here are the statewide winners from both challenges:

Director's Safety Award

- Material Load Indicator (Southeast District) – Traveling Trophy

People's Choice Award

- GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker (Southeast District) – Traveling Trophy

Tool & Equipment Statewide Winners

- GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker (Southeast District) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- Wing Plow Strobes (St. Louis District) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- Material Loader (Southeast District) – Individual Cash Awards
- Sign Base Cleaner (Kansas City District) – Individual Cash Awards



The Material Load Indicator, submitted by the Southeast District, won the

Productivity Statewide Winners

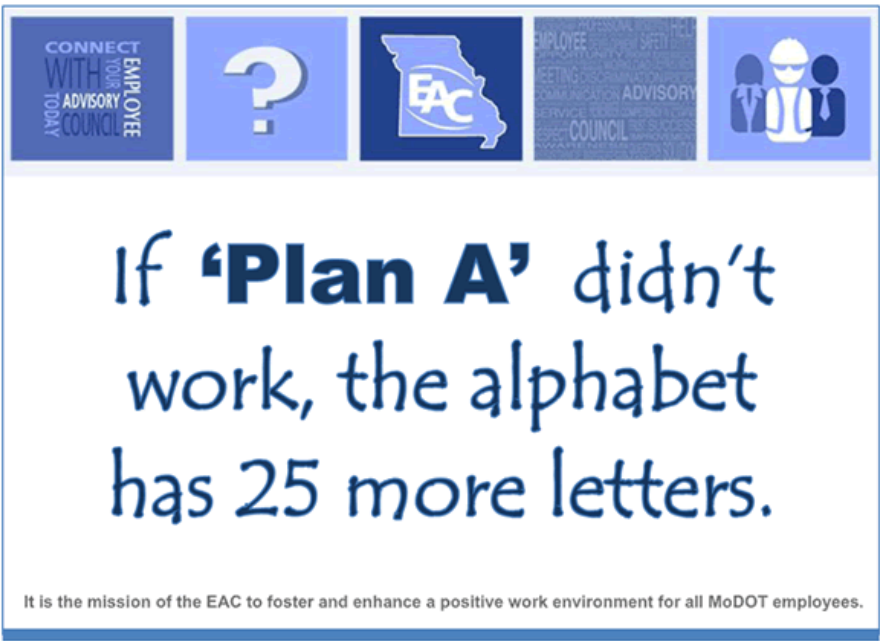
- Hover Trimmer (Central District) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- LED Snow Plow Lights (Northwest) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck (Southeast District) – Individual Cash Awards
- Tow Plow Camera (Southwest District) – Individual Cash Awards

Projects Statewide Winners

- Median Barrier Wall Modification (Northeast District) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- Adjustable Guardrail (Southwest District) – Individual Cash Awards plus a \$10,000 budget transfer
- Striped Roundabout (Central District) – Individual Cash Awards
- KC News Network (Kansas City District) – Individual Cash Awards

More information on the showcase winners is available on SharePoint at: [Innovations Showcase](#).

See all Showcase Challenge photos on flicker - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/modot/sets/72157650083016333/>.



Commission Summary

Investing in the State's Roads and Bridges

by Robert Brendel

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission received examples Wednesday of the value of transportation investment and the consequences that come with failing to invest in the state's roads and bridges.

Transportation Planning Director Machele Watkins explained that investments in the 2015-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program were \$2.2 billion less than those made in the STIP from 2007-2011. Analysis done by the Economic Development Research Group showed that reduction means:

- a loss of 6,659 new jobs, or the equivalent of shutting down one of the state's major employers like Anheuser-Busch, Whiteman Air Force Base or Hallmark Cards;
- a loss of \$196 million in personal income. That's equal to the impact that would be caused if 4,100 families picked up and moved out of Missouri, and
- the loss of \$10.5 billion in long-term economic impact, which is equivalent to the state's soybean crop being a total loss for each of the next five years.

She also detailed the benefits that occurred in Columbia following the construction of Grindstone Parkway, a two-mile, four-lane road on the city's south side that replaced largely rural two-lane Route AC. The \$15.7 million project was completed in 2005. Since then, residential and retail development has sprung up and job growth in the area grew by 11 percent.

Cyndra Lorey, executive director of the Rolla Regional Economic Commission, explained that an interchange project at Interstate 44 and Route V had decreased congestion, improved access to an industrial park and was a critical factor in the expansion of a distribution center that



Cyndra Lorey, executive director of the Rolla Regional Economic Commission, spoke to the Commission about the benefits one project had to the area.

created more than 50 new jobs. She also described the need for other projects that could spur development of retail operations with estimated annual sales of \$100 million and creation of more than 400 jobs.

“Transportation is not just getting from point A to point B,” she said, “It’s also about what you get when you get there.”

OTHER ITEMS

MoDOT and Patrol Employees’

Retirement System Board of Trustees – Vice Chairman Joe Carmichael reported that the board met on April 8, at which time they learned that the system’s assets within a very diversified investment portfolio stood at \$1.965 billion.

Resolutions of Appreciation – The Commission recognized and thanked Ed Hillhouse, executive director of the East-West Gateway Council of Governments in St. Louis, and State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, both of whom are retiring. Wright has spent more than 30 years with MoDOT in a variety of positions, including stints as district engineer in both St. Joseph and Kansas City.

Innovations Showcase – Interim Director Roberta Broeker reported that last week’s DOMInno event (Deliver-Operate-Maintain-Innovate) in Springfield included the celebration of 57 innovative products and projects created by MoDOT staff. Commissioner Michael Pace said, “This was my first time to attend and I was so impressed with what I saw. The ownership and pride that these employees displayed for their projects was something to behold.”

Consideration of Bids for Transportation Improvements – State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported to the Commission the results of the April 17 bid opening. MoDOT received 63 bids on 21 calls, all of which the Commission awarded to the low bidder. Schroeter said that year to date awards total \$635 million – 1.6 percent under budget. He noted, however, that four years ago at this point in the fiscal year more than \$1 billion in contracts had been awarded.

FY 2016 Budget – Financial Services Director Brenda Morris presented the agency’s draft budget for the state fiscal year that begins July 1. It totals \$2.1 billion, which is \$126 million less than the current year’s budget. The Commission will take action on the budget at its June meeting in Lee’s Summit.

MHTC Recognizes State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright’s MoDOT Career

by Linda Wilson-Horn

At its May meeting, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission recognized the 30 year career of State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, who is retiring effective June 1. Wright began her distinguished career with the Missouri Department of Transportation on February 1, 1985.

Wright has served in a variety of capacities in three districts and three divisions including the Kansas City, Southwest and Northwest districts, and the divisions of Construction and Materials, Traffic and Maintenance moving through increasingly responsible assignments culminating with her appointment as state maintenance engineer.

Wright is known for valuing and encouraging employees to plan and prepare for incidents and emergencies. As Kansas City district engineer, she led district staff in responding to a pavement collapse at Three Trails Crossing in the summer of 2010. After considerable rain, soil underneath the highway gave way and created a large gap



State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright was honored by the Commission for her 30 year

where the ramp that links westbound I-470 and northbound US 71 to westbound I-435 impacting traffic in the Kansas City region. **career with MoDOT. Wright is retiring June 1. Photo by Cathy Morrison.**

A resolution presented to her on behalf of the commission summed up her career, “Throughout her career, Beth Wright served admirably, diligently, tirelessly, and collaboratively on behalf of the Department of Transportation and the State of Missouri, as evidenced by her ability to establish and maintain excellent relations with organizations in Missouri for the betterment of Missouri’s transportation system.”

View From the Chair - Emergency Closure of Major Missouri River Bridge

by Stephen Miller
Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission Chairman

In the middle of yesterday’s Commission meeting in Jefferson City, MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Kansas City District Engineer Dan Niec interrupted us to report that a bridge over the Missouri River needed to be closed immediately. An in-progress inspection of the Missouri Route 291 northbound bridge over the Missouri River near Sugar Creek revealed serious deterioration of the steel truss in a critical location.



The closure to ensure public safety while a repair could be determined was absolutely the right course of action, but it is one that comes with considerable impact. Until the 66-year-old bridge can be repaired, traffic will be rerouted to the southbound bridge with one lane of traffic in each direction. That means daily pain for the drivers of nearly 25,000 vehicles who cross the two bridges each day.

This is the third bridge in the Kansas City area that has had to be unexpectedly closed in the past year. There are a number of other examples across the state. These closures can mean long and costly detours for motorists

and for the efficient movement of goods. But when an inspection reveals problems, they must be done. The only solution is act now – today – to take the first step to address our funding crisis.

The clock is ticking with just over one week remaining in the legislative session. It is essential the Senate act today! Only a few days remain in the legislative session and Senator Doug Libla’s bill is still tied up in the Senate. The good news is that President Pro Tem Tom Dempsey (R-St. Peters) and Majority Floor Leader Ron Richard (R-Joplin) have added their leadership to the effort. But even with this courageous leadership, procedural rules allow just one or two senators to keep the measure from coming to a vote.

Governor Jay Nixon will add the full weight of his office today as he visits the Route 291 bridge outside Kansas City. The Governor is expected to call upon the Senate and the House to pass this measure and send it to his desk.

Ask those legislators who are preventing a vote for what principle are they fighting. It is certainly not for the best interest of the majority of Missourians who want safe bridges and economic activity. How do they explain what they are doing to those thousands of motorists who today will be caught in the traffic tie-up on Route 291 – burning up hard-earned money on fuel as they idle and grind slowly along the single lane of traffic, late for jobs, appointments, picking up kids – or worse.

Let’s get this done!

Gov. Nixon Encourages Lawmakers to Finish Work on Pending Legislation Investing in Missouri Roads and Bridges

Governor reiterates his call from the State of the State to address challenges of aging transportation infrastructure

At an aging highway bridge that was closed on Wednesday by MoDOT for emergency repairs, Gov. Jay Nixon today encouraged state lawmakers to finish work on pending legislation to help provide revenue for maintaining Missouri’s roads and bridges. The call reiterated remarks made during his State of the State address in January, when the Governor said Missouri must meet the challenges posed both by aging roads and bridges and by a stagnant source of revenue for



needed maintenance.

“A strong transportation infrastructure is vital to Missouri’s economy,” said Gov. Nixon. “But as we see here at this closed bridge today, many of our most important roadways are in significant need of repair – resulting in more traffic, less safety, and fewer jobs. I thank members of the legislature for their work so far on this issue – now they just need to finish the job.”

State Transportation Program Focuses on Fewer Projects, Taking Care of Missouri's Roads and Bridges

by Holly Dentner

Missouri’s investment in its roads and bridges continues to shrink, and that means fewer projects to keep them in good condition.

On May 6, MoDOT released its draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for public review and comment. The STIP lists all transportation projects planned by state and regional agencies for a five-year period.



“This year, the draft STIP demonstrates the commitment MoDOT has made to projects that focus on primary routes and taking care of the existing highway system,” said MoDOT Interim Director Roberta Broeker. “As the construction budget gets smaller each year, projects in the STIP must reflect only the most essential transportation needs.”

The total number of projects in the STIP’s five-year highway and bridge construction schedule is 574. That’s a decrease of about 250 projects compared to last year’s final STIP. The change comes as a result of a construction budget that drops from \$596 million in 2016 to \$325 million in 2017 and beyond.

Several years ago, the STIP contained over \$1 billion of road and bridge construction projects each year, generating jobs, boosting the economy and expanding the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across

the state and the country. With diminishing fuel tax revenues and the ever-increasing cost of materials, that scenario is now out of reach.

“Despite the progress of the last 10 years, 2017 will bring the funding shortfall MoDOT has predicted for years,” said Broeker. “The ramifications of that shortfall will extend to every region of the state and the impact will be significant in terms of safety and economic growth.”

The draft 2016-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program lists transportation projects planned by state and regional planning agencies for fiscal years 2016 through 2020 (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020). The proposed program is available for public review starting May 6, 2015. Those interested in seeing the program may review it online at www.modot.org or at MoDOT district and regional offices throughout the state. Comments on the program can be submitted by mail, email or by calling MoDOT’s customer service center at 1-888-ASK-MoDOT (888-275-6636). The formal comment period ends June 5, 2015.

Following the public review period, the comments will be summarized and presented to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to consider before acting on the final transportation program in July.

2015 DOMInno Conference

by David Mitchell

Despite significant funding challenges, MoDOT will continue to maintain Missouri's highway system, deliver high quality projects on time and on budget and innovate new designs, processes and procedures.



Click above to watch a short video of just a few of the comments made by Interim Director Roberta Broeker and Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger.

Those are some of the messages heard by approximately 500 MoDOT employees attending the 2015 statewide DOMInno meeting in Springfield April 28-30.

The annual meeting is a time to get updates from MoDOT's various divisions and learn about the latest trends and innovations.

After the Innovations Showcase, the Dominno meeting began with comments from the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and MoDOT's executive team. Commissioner Mike Pace talked about how impressed he was with the department and the commitment of employees to do excellent work. Roberta Broeker talked about funding and discussed her plan for serving as interim director of the department. Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Assistant Chief Engineer Kathy Harvey talked about the department's direction and all answered questions from the audience.

During one of the general sessions, State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter and Environmental and Historic Preservation Manager Gayle Unruh talked about a recent agreement between MoDOT and the Environmental Protection Agency to establish new processes to improve erosion control oversight.

Kevin Ward, Missouri division administrator for the Federal Highway Administration, talked about the Obama Administration's proposed Grow America Act – a six year, \$478 billion funding bill for surface transportation.

"Investing in transportation isn't a cost," Ward said, "it's an investment just like for your retirement."

Missouri would get \$923 million under the Grow America Act. Ward said that would be a 22 percent increase for the state. However, he expects there to be another short-term continuing resolution at the end of May before any decision is made in Congress on the president's proposal.

State Construction and Materials Engineer Dave Ahlvers talked about the state's philosophy on innovation. He said MoDOT is known for being willing to innovate.

"Seeking out new ideas and being willing to implement them is a big deal," Ahlvers said.

But, he added, that has to happen in cooperation with MoDOT's contractor partners.

"It's a lot easier to try things without talking to contractors, but it's important to take that step," he said.

Scott Stottlemeyer, assistant state bridge engineer, outlined recent initiatives including moving information to SharePoint and the recent rollout of an online map where people can find unplanned bridge closures and restrictions.

Breakout sessions included topics like LED pavement markers, Jarraff tree trimming operations and wrong way driving countermeasures.

The meeting wrapped up on April 30 with a motivational message from author and speaker Alan Zimmerman, titled "Doing More with Less."



State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter addresses attendees during one of the general sessions.



State Construction and Materials Engineer Dave Ahlvers talked about the state's philosophy on innovation.

He focused on attitude saying, “If you talk to yourself negatively, you can’t expect to have a positive attitude.”

“You perform,” said Zimmerman, “exactly as you see yourself.”

Team Talk - Serving As Your Interim Director

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! I am so excited to be serving as your interim director. As I’ve told people when they’ve asked, this is an opportunity I never dreamed of. You can never tell where life’s road will lead, and this is an unexpected blessing. I will not be applying for the position on a permanent basis, so I will serve in this role until a director is selected sometime this fall.

I have been fortunate in my 17 years at MoDOT to have worked with many of you, but for those who don’t know much about me, I would like to share a little of my background. I am a native of Washington, MO (the corn cob pipe capital of the world – and yes, I did work in the factory one summer) and I came to MoDOT in 1998 after working nearly 18 years at the Missouri State Auditor’s Office. Since coming to MoDOT I have worked as an audit manager, audit and business analysis director, director of audits and investigations, and as MoDOT’s chief financial officer.

My focus as an employee and as a leader has been on values.

- Do the right thing.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Stand up and be counted even when doing what you believe in is unpopular.
- Just tell the truth.

It isn’t always an easy road, but if you follow those basic rules, you never have to be ashamed when you look at yourself in the mirror each morning. A simple litmus test I’ve used over the years is, “How would I feel if my mom and dad read that about me on the front page of the paper?”



In my time as director, I’m planning to spend as much time as I can visiting with employees. When a new director takes over, I want to be able to look that person in the eye and tell them what is on your minds and in your hearts. Prior to that, I want you to have the opportunity to look me in the eye and know that you are being heard. It will be impossible to come in contact with all of you, but I will work hard to be out and about in the coming months.

Know that every day I pray for the wisdom to make good decisions when it comes to leading MoDOT. Know that I value you and feel privileged to serve with you. Know that your ingenuity and tenacity and will to overcome make me proud and give me courage. Know that you matter and that I will do my best for you.

Spring Highway Safety Campaigns

by Kelly Jackson



May is Motorcycle Awareness Campaign aims to increase motorcycle safety awareness for all road users

It's springtime in Missouri and everyone wants to be outdoors, and motorcyclists everywhere are eager to hit the road. Riders will be polishing that chrome and tuning those engines for weekend rides, rallies and runs. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to remind motorists and motorcyclists alike to "Watch for Motorcycles" in order to help prevent motorcycle crashes, deaths and injuries on Missouri's roadways.

"Motorcyclists have the same rights and privileges as any other drivers on the roadway," said Bill Whitfield, executive committee chair of the coalition. "However, drivers of cars and trucks often don't see motorcycles until the last second, or sometimes not at all."

In 2014, 87 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes on Missouri roadways. By following a few basic safety rules, we can all help prevent crashes. [Read More.](#)

One Moment Can Define You Youth alcohol campaign encourages smart choices

Today's youth are full of hopes and dreams for their futures. Many have plans to be tomorrow's musicians, writers and



athletes. However, one bad choice of getting behind the wheel after drinking could make them a killer. Their lives and the lives of others would be changed forever.

In the last three years, there were 54 fatal crashes and 174 disabling injury crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21. As a result of a young person making the wrong choice, 64 people died and 257 were seriously injured in these crashes.

Law enforcement will be on the lookout for underage impaired driving May 1-12 with a high visibility enforcement

campaign. Timing of the campaign will coincide with statewide prom and graduation dates, which are often when teens and young adults consume alcohol.

Missouri has a Zero Tolerance Law. If you are under 21, your license will be suspended if you're caught driving with even a trace of alcohol in your system. Consequences of drunk driving include jail time, the loss of driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks. Other financial hits include higher insurance rates, attorney fees, and court costs. In the worst cases, the underage driver becomes a killer.



What's Happening



Email Retention Policy

Phase I, the implementation of the retention policy for the Deleted Items folder in Outlook has been completed and the Information System Division is gearing up for Phase II.

Phase II will be implementing the three year retention policy for the rest of employee email folders and calendar entries. When implemented, all emails and calendar entries older than three years will be deleted from your mailbox. Recurring meetings will be deleted after the last meeting in the series is older than three years. The retention policy will display the date the email expires on emails less than three year old. Information Systems plans to start implementing Phase II in a few weeks.

All emails are viewable in the SourceOne archive system. Employees can access the SourceOne archive system and Online Help from the MoDOT E-Mail portal on the MoDOT SharePoint Home page.



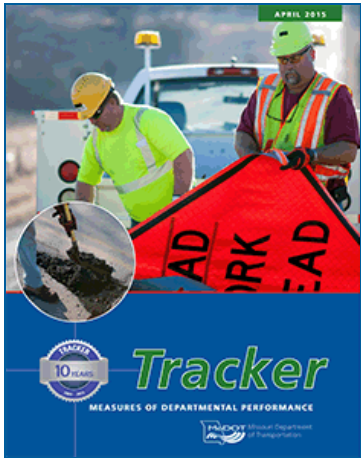
Employee Appreciation Week Discounts

In appreciation of state employees, Silver Dollar City is pleased to offer state employees discounted passes to Silver Dollar City and Silver Dollar City attractions.

As a state of Missouri employee, you are able to save 20 percent on tickets to Silver Dollar City, Showboat Branson Belle and White Water with your unique promo code.

Just click on <http://store.silverdollarcity.com>, then enter Promo Code 25372 to receive your discount!

NOTE: the 20 percent discount code applies to single day passes only, not to season passes.



First Quarter Tracker Available

The April 2015 MoDOT Tracker and Supplement are available to review at <http://sharepoint/Tracker/SitePages/TrackerResources.aspx>.
The Tracker, Supplement and Radical Cost Control for Projects Focal Point will be discussed at the statewide meeting May 19.



Centennial Commemorative Book on Transportation Available for Purchase

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), this book captures the essence of America's transportation history since 1914. It provides snapshots, milestones, stories, and photographs that catalogue the events, advancements, decisions, people, and partnerships that shaped and influenced this century of transportation achievement. It is a pretty amazing story.
Visit the website for details on purchasing (\$26 non-members or \$20 for members) - [Commemorative Book](#).



Free Training Available

Expand your job skills with a library resource training session, provided by the Missouri State Library Reference Services Division. All resources covered in class are available at no cost to state employees, and can be used from work or on the go!
Sessions are scheduled for May and June. Click here for more information - [Free Training](#).



Earth Day at the Capitol

Last month MoDOT joined the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for the Earth Day event at the Capitol, promoting litter prevention through our Adopt-A-Highway Program, stormwater pollution prevention, and promoting the use of use wildflowers and native grasses. MoDOT volunteers even helped the DNR hand out seedlings.
See all the photos on flickr - [Earth Day](#).

May Deferred Compensation Update

The strange thing about employee benefits is that sometimes you don't understand how they work until you actually need them. Unfortunately, as it relates to your pension and personal retirement savings, that's not the best approach.
We understand that you lead a busy life and it's not always easy keeping up with employee benefits, but we also want you to know that some employee benefits aren't just working for you today, tomorrow or even within the calendar year. Watch this month's video to learn more - [Deferred Compensation](#).



May Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Jacqueline R. Bordeleau - NE

30 Years

Gregory J. Price - NE
Britt S. McClain - NE
John William Brendel - SL
Steven G. Bauman - SL
James Robert Gremaud - SL
Mark A. McCoy - SW
Keith R. Gilmore - SW
Pamela G. Griffin - SE
Barry Dean Horst - SE
Marvin L. Gillespie - SE
Lindell G. Huskey - SE
Leonard Alan Vader - CO

25 Years

Mark E. Silkwood - NW
Kevin Brian Lytton - NW
Jason R. Basham - CD
Rockey L. Garner - SW
Joe Henry Jones - SE
Darrell S. Knierim - CO

20 Years

Robert D. Valentine - NW
Michael Lee Bozarth - NW
Anthony Eugene Lager - NW
David L. Shahan - NW
Darrin E. Harvey - NW
Barry L. Booth - NW
John S. Buck - NE
Neal T. Ross - NE
Teresa May Newland - NE
Shawn G. Morgan - NE
Cheryl M. Grimes - KC
Richard Scott Kingery - KC

20 Years Continued

Roy D. Kempker - CD
Stephen Andrew Linhart - CD
Kirsten Ann Munck - CD
Donna M. Fissell - SL
Michael Paul Abernathy - SL
Matthew Ilgenfritz - SW
Charles W. Curtis - SW
Mark S. Hancock - SW
Thomas W. Moore - SE
Audie A. Pulliam - SE
Travis A. Pearson - SE
Scott D. Ward - CO
Stephen A. Meystrik - CO
Michael Neil Baker - CO

15 Years

Derrick John Gott - NW
Johnny Ray Gunnels - NE
Lonnie R. Shields - NE
Martin Lee Rinne - KC
Michael J. Arnett - KC
Timothy M. Oligschlaeger - CD
Cary D. Simcoe - CD
Scott L. Snelling - CD
Allen Joseph Wankum - CD
Jack Charles Kratky - SL
Roy A. Shoemaker - SL
Roy A. Crites - SL
David Michael Brunjes - SL
James R. McGinnis - SW
Joyce Elizabeth Shaw - SW
Jason M. Worley - SW
Joshua T. Burks - SW
Darrell R. Cook - SW
Elgin D. Bogan - SE
Christopher J. Marler - SE
Jamie L. Qualls - SE

15 Years Continued

Timothy Ray Crader - SE
Jason Lee Estes - SE
Jason A. Ferguson - SE
Michael R. Schwendemann - SE
Patrick L. Robinson - CO
Amy Beth Blankenship - CO
Kathy M. Murphy - CO
Kelly Marie Mauzy - CO

10 Years

Lynn M. Anderson - NW
Jason A. Giesken - NW
Joshua D. Waelder - NE
Monte Wade Tinnon - SE
Brandi J. Baldwin - NE
Marc William Hohe - KC
Brian Russ Burger - KC
John Roy Reeves - CD
Janet Ellen Zuroweste - CD
Cindy Leigh Kremer - CD
Michael D. Parker - SL
Gerald C. Lyston - SL
Dustin W. Crain - SW
Ryan Paul Ward-Melton - SW
Aaron L. Underwood - SW
Travis Lynn Peterson -SW
James A. Wilson - SW
Donald Gene Treat - SE
Bree Kathleen McMurray - CO
Kyle Edward Grayson - CO
Jeannie M. Hoff - CO
Kendra McLelland - CO

5 Years

Robert M. Gaier - KC
Scotty K. Clark - SL
Aaron Wade Pemberton - SL

Connections

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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May Wellness Newsletter - Sleep Month



Insomnia is a real problem. About 10 percent of the U.S. population suffers from it, according to the National Institutes of Health. Insomnia is associated with reduced function and increased illness. May is National Sleep Month. Take steps this month to establish a routine of effective sleep.

Below are just a few tips, click here for all the details – [Sleep Month](#).

- Go to bed and get up at the same time.
- Relax before going to bed.
- Determine if naps help or hurt your nighttime sleep.
- Exercise.
- Create a healthy sleep environment: dark, cool, free of noise and distractions.
- Sleep using a comfortable mattress and pillow.
- Avoid alcohol, smoking or heavy meals in the evening.

Guard Your Health with Preventive Care



When it comes to your health, what you don't know can hurt you. Medical tests and screenings can help you find problems early when they are easier to treat. Vaccines and immunizations are also important for health protection.

Coventry Health Care wants to help you make the most of your health and benefits. That's why they have combined some recommendations for adults from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into a convenient one-page flier - [Focus On Your Health](#).

If you have not already, please schedule an appointment with your physician for your physical examination.

Twenty MPH on MoDOT Drive

By Tim Taylor



“Sorry, I didn’t realize I was going that fast.” “I didn’t know the speed limit.” “I didn’t have time to stop.” Those comments are among the excuses law enforcement officers hear when they stop a driver for speeding or investigating an accident.

The posted speed limit on MoDOT Drive is 20 miles per hour, no matter what time of day.

MoDOT Drive has a high amount of pedestrian traffic, combined with parking areas and large pieces of equipment, so it’s important you allow yourself as much reaction time as possible by obeying the posted speed limit. When driving in the parking lots you should drive even slower than 20 miles per hour.

There are many ways to make our workplace safer or less safe, you can make that difference. Please, don’t put yourself in the position that you find yourself using one of the excuses law enforcement officers too often hear. Thanks for doing your part in keeping our workplace safe.

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Northwest District

Innovation Showcase

The Northwest District was well represented at the Innovations Showcase held in Springfield last week as part of the DOMInno meeting. Five entries were chosen to compete in the statewide showcase with one of our very own bringing home one of the \$10,000 prizes!

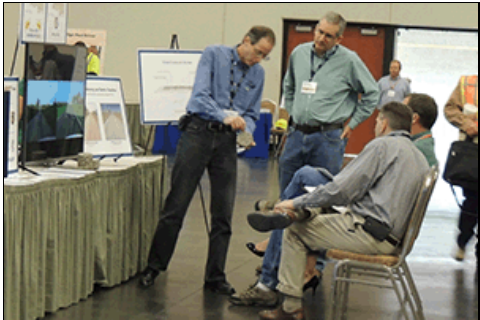
Congratulations go to all the teams competing: Hand Telespar Base Puller, tool and equipment entry, presented by Greg Page and Roger Anderson of Trenton Maintenance; LED Snow Plow Lights, productivity entry, presented by Mark Corbin and Rodney Milford of Brookfield Maintenance; Crash Trend Spreadsheet, projects entry, presented by Allison Brucker and Bryce Acton; Follow-Up Form, projects entry, presented by Marcia Johnson; and Scratch and Chip, projects entry, presented by Mike Rinehart and Wes Moore.



Setting up displays prior to the judges arrival are (from left) Traffic Studies Specialist Allison Brucker; Assistant Construction and Materials Engineer Austin Hibler; Traffic Studies Specialist Bryce Acton; Transportation Project Manager Wes Moore, Area Engineer Mike Rinehart and Senior Information Systems Technologist Cindy Gamache.



Maintenance Crew Leaders Mark Corbin (left) and Rodney Milford (right) present their innovation to State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright, who was judging the competition.



Transportation Project Manager Wes Moore and Area Engineer Mike Rinehart present their innovative Scratch and Chip to the project category judges.



District Engineer Don Wichern (far left) and Assistant Construction and Materials Engineer Austin Hibler (far right) pose with Maintenance Crew Leaders Rodney Milford and Mark Corbin by their winning LED Snow Plow Lights innovation.

Safety Belt Success in the Northwest

Thirty schools signed up across northwest Missouri as participants in the Battle of the Belt program at the beginning of this school year. As part of the program, each school is asked to conduct a surprise seat belt check, conduct a six-week education campaign, then conduct a final surprise seat belt check. Prizes are awarded based on the percentage of students buckled up during the post-education seat belt check and for the most improved percentage of students buckled up. In each district, the school with the highest percentage of students buckled up and the most improved school receive a cash prize as well as a banner for their accomplishments. Banners were also handed out for schools that had a 91 percent or better seat belt usage.

In northwest Missouri, only 16 schools entered their seat belt check data to the online website. Of those, Green City and Northwestern High Schools both achieved 100 percent seat belt usage during their second check. Linn County High School was the most improved school and both Bucklin High School and North Harrison High School received silver banners for achieving more than 95 percent seat belt usage. Each of these five schools were presented with their awards during a school assembly.



Students from Green City High School pose with their \$500 check and Gold Banner for achieving 100 percent of students buckling up.



Northwestern High School celebrates their achievement of 100 percent of their students buckling up.



Linn County High School received a \$500 check for being the most improved school in northwest Missouri. They improved their seat belt usage by more than 54 percent!



Area Engineer Tonya Lohman spoke with Linn County High School students during an assembly about their success in raising their seat belt usage at their school.



Bucklin High School students celebrate 98.36 percent of their students buckling up.



North Harrison students pose with their silver banner which was awarded to them for achieving 95.45 percent of students using their seat belts.

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Comments & Suggestions

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Northeast District

"Drill Team" Integral Part of Bridge Design

Taking soil samples to determine slopes is not as simple as digging in the dirt, and it requires much more than one person and a shovel. Using specialized equipment, Lydia Brownell, geotechnical specialist for the NE District, has been working with her colleagues and maintenance crews to drill for core samples on either ends of three bridges to provide slope recommendations and soil results to be used in the design of bridge replacements.

“When we are completed with our recommendations, we submit the geotechnical report, which is one of the first steps in gathering information for design,” Lydia explained.

This is quite an operation involving large equipment, several employees and traffic control.

“We drill on either end of the bridge for the soil samples and share the results so design can determine what foundations are needed for the feasibility of a new bridge,” she continued.

Once Lydia and her colleagues complete their work, central office bridge division comes out to verify the information, serving as a checks and balance.

The bridges the geotechnical team are working at include Missouri Route 151 over North River in Knox County, Missouri Route 15 over Black Creek in Shelby County, and Missouri Route 15 over Fish Branch in Audrain County. These three bridges are funded for replacement in calendar year 2016.



Above: Lydia Brownell works with drill crew to gather information on core samples.

Left: Edina maintenance crews help with traffic control while drilling takes place on the North River bridge.

Around the District...



Pictured is Keith Killen discussing the median barrier modification project that won the statewide Innovations Challenge in the project category. District team members included: Keith Killen, Jerad Noland, Macy Rodenbaugh, Rick Domzalski, Nick Gibbons, Bob Davidson and Andy Long.



Kevin Rhodes, outreach coordinator for the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety, and Marisa Christy-Kerns, with communications, attended the Randolph County Healthy Community Day event. Kevin is pictured with the "wheel of safety" and a future driver!



Macon County Health Department is helping spread the message about the importance of not texting and driving.



The NE Coalition for roadway safety sponsors a local team where their jerseys display the Arrive Alive message. Look closely at the player's sleeve.



McDonald's in Macon is showing support of safe driving, as they display the "Arrive Alive" message on their sign.

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Kansas City
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Federal Highway Deputy Administrator Visits Kansas City Area's \$41.4 Million I-35 / Pleasant Valley Improvement

Recently, Federal Highway Administration's Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Gregory Nadeau met with workers and received a progress report on the **\$41.4 million Pleasant Valley Improvement project**, which began earlier this month.

Located in central Clay County, workers are beginning a two-year project to improve I-35 from one mile north of Pleasant Valley Road to I-435, improve the I-35 and Pleasant Valley Road interchange, and improve nearby cross streets Church Road, Sobbie Road, Pleasant Valley Road, South Liberty Parkway, and US-69. The existing interchange is too small to accommodate the traffic volume of one of the state's fastest-growing areas, causing significant tie-ups for Pleasant Valley, Liberty, Kansas City, and nearby Claycomo.

The project relies on more than \$32 million in combined federal and state highway funds, with an additional \$4.2 million coming from the City of Liberty, \$5 million from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and \$100,000 from the City of Pleasant Valley.

Earlier this year, the FHWA announced a plan to address the infrastructure deficit with a \$478 billion, six-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal, the **GROW AMERICA Act**. The proposal would make critical investments in roads, bridges and other infrastructure needed to promote long-term economic growth, enhance safety and efficiency and support jobs well into the 21st century.

"As the workers told me, this project will eliminate a major Kansas City-area chokepoint, and improve traffic flow and safety for thousands of drivers each day," said Deputy Federal Highway Administrator Gregory Nadeau. "These are the kind of projects we need to see more of nationwide. With Congress' help, we will."



[Click here for more information on this visit.](#)

The Costly Price of Driving Missouri's Roads and Bridges

It's no secret that some of Missouri's roads and bridges have been deemed insufficient, not to mention heavily congested. For months on end, leaders at MoDOT have been hammering home that very point.

But what is surprising is that Missourians are paying an additional \$4.5 million annually in additional costs to drive on those roads and bridges.

This is according to a recent report filed by TRIP, A non-profit transportation research group based out of Washington, D.C.

The agency says each Missouri driver spends about \$1,500 per year on added vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion related delays. The report was based on roads in Jefferson City, Springfield, St. Louis and Kansas City.

TRIP’s Director of Policy and Research Rocky Morietti delivered the findings Thursday, April 30 at the Mid-America Regional Council’s downtown offices in Kansas City, using the Broadway Bridge as a backdrop.

Morietti says, “In the Kansas City area, 23 percent of the regions roads have pavements that are in rough condition and 32 percent are in mediocre condition,” He went on to say, “the average driver spends an additional 27 hours annually stuck in traffic. “That’s additional time lost due to traffic congestion.”

Morietti summed up the announcement by saying that what’s needed is a long-term adequately funded federal transportation program to help get Missouri’s roads and bridges back on track.

Click here to listen to Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Steve Miller talk about funding at the TRIP press conference.



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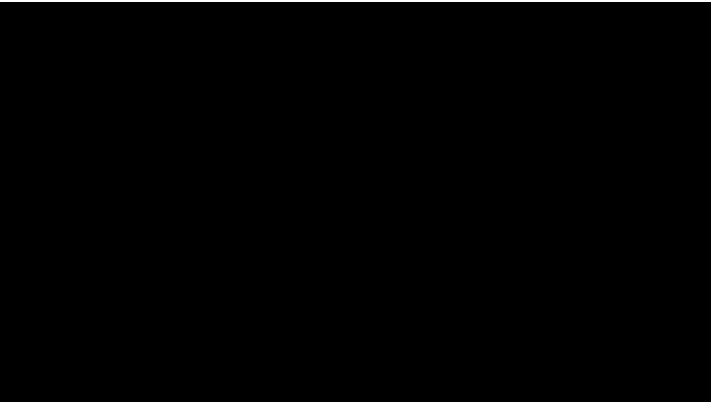


Columbia Crew Touts Safety of Halo Lights

Working on the interstate after dark as part of a maintenance crew can be a tough and dangerous job.

So when the Columbia maintenance facility asked to try out the Halo Light by Illumagear for its night crew, it was an easy decision to give the new product a test run to see if it would make a difference in keeping our workers and the traveling public safe.

The Halo Light is an innovative, patented 360° personal active safety system (PASS) that attaches to any hard hat and produces a ring of light around the wearer enabling him or her to see and be seen in all directions at all times.



So far, the safety innovation has been a gigantic hit with the night crew at the Columbia facility.

"The Halo Light is a great safety addition to our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)," said Columbia Night Maintenance Crew Leader Josh Reynolds. "It illuminates our entire body and allows us to be seen in every direction. You can tell that the public is really paying attention to us with the Halo Light on. It's a valuable tool to keep us safer and the public safer."

To see the Halo Light in action on I-70 in Columbia click play on the video above, which features Reynolds and Columbia Maintenance Workers Kevin Samuel and David Woods or you can find the video on You Tube: <https://youtu.be/ytWVFfQAOPE>

What's Happening

Central District Represented at Statewide Innovations Challenge

The Central District had two statewide winners at the Innovations Showcase held in Springfield, Mo. last week as part of the DOMInno conference. Seven district entries were chosen to compete in the statewide showcase and one of those entries - the Hover Trimmer submitted by Nathan Ragsdale, Jarrett Reedy and the team at the Salem maintenance facility - earned the \$10,000 grand prize in the productivity category!

The Striped Roundabout, submitted by Ryan Libbert and Kent Bohon, earned an individual award in the projects category.

Congratulations go to all the teams competing (categories in parenthesis): Articulated Saw Attachment (productivity) submitted by Ronnie Pyatt and the Steelville Maintenance team; Striping Database (productivity) submitted by Brandon Schreimann and the Striping and Signing team; Trimline Carrier (tool & equipment) submitted by Donald Maddox and the Williamsburg Maintenance team; Tie Rod Boots (tool & equipment) submitted by Chris Stuckenschneider of General Services Fleet Support and the Gear Box Shaft Bit Attachment (tool & equipment) submitted by Jim Hager and the Bridge Maintenance team.



National Group Stresses Need for Transportation Funding

Jefferson City area drivers are spending \$1,316 more annually as a result of Missouri's deteriorating highway system.

That was the message in a report from the national transportation research group, TRIP, delivered at a news conference attended by central Missouri transportation and community leaders April 30 in Jefferson City.

The TRIP report found 22 percent of Missouri's major locally- and state-maintained roads are in poor condition and 23 percent of the state's bridges are "structurally deficient or functionally obsolete."

Pictured in the photo (left to right) are: Matt McCormick, President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce; Randy Allen, President and CEO of the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce; Missouri Department of Transportation Interim Director Roberta Broeker; and Central District Engineer David Silvester.



Work Progresses on Lafayette St. Project

The Chestnut Street bridge is nearing completion and dirt and rocks are being removed to make way for the interchange on the Lafayette Street Interchange Project. The bridge is on schedule to be completed in June. Blasting operations are also currently underway to remove rock in the Lafayette Street area and should continue through the month of May. For more information, visit the project website at: http://www.modot.org/central/major_projects/LafayetteInterchange.htm



Around the District



Russellville High School was named the Central Region winner of the 2014 Battle of the Belt Competition for achieving 100 percent compliance in seat belt usage during the evaluation period. In addition to being crowned the winner, Russellville High School received a plaque from Central District Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson and a \$500 check from the American Family Insurance company. Assisting in the effort were (from left to right) Cole County Sheriff Deputy and School Resource Officer Joe Matherne, Coy Bond, Zach Voss, Tyler Jowers, Haley Windsor, Caleb Harrison, Damian Miller, Matthew Fringer, and Tony Porter, American Family Insurance Agent.

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St. Louis District

St. Louis District Lands Grand Prize in Innovations Showcase

by Shaunda White

Imagine a winter operations season with no reports of snowplows being struck. That would save MoDOT thousands of dollars in fleet equipment repairs and significantly improve the safety of motorists during inclement weather conditions. That type of thinking is what landed the Wing Plow Strobe Innovation the grand prize in the Tool & Equipment category at the annual Innovations Showcase last week.



Jimmy Brown (left) and Trey Harris (right) stand in front of their Wing Plow Strobe innovation that won first place in the Tool & Equipment category at the Innovation Showcase in Springfield last month.

Wing Plow Strobe at our building. It helps keep our trucks running during winter operations, saves our organization money and promotes safety. That sounds like a win/win situation for everybody," said Brown.

In addition to the recognition at the Innovations Showcase, Harris and Brown received \$425 each and the district received \$10,000. The district will use the \$10,000 on roadway maintenance and work zone safety.

Festus Maintenance Workers Trey Harris and Jimmy Brown initiated the Wing Plow Strobe innovation.

"We were having a lot of problems with motorists running into the wing plows while trying to pass our gang truck plows. Some motorists think that our trucks only have a front plow and usually will not see the wing plow until it is too late when they try to hurry up and get in front of us. I wanted to come up with something that would make our wing plows stand out, to almost make them impossible to miss," said Harris.

In the last two winter seasons, the district has reported more than 20 wing plow related incidents. The plow on the front of the truck pushes snow over to the side, which depending on the severity of the precipitation, can completely cover the wing plow. When a wing plow is struck, it hinders the truck and driver from assisting with snow removal for the remainder of that winter storm.

"I am excited about winning and very proud to have the

St. Louis District Spring Meetings

St. Louis employees gathered last month to celebrate district achievements. Along with project award acknowledgements, the meetings covered MoDOT's current funding situation with proposed solutions and updated safety information.

Some of the awards that were highlighted this year included:

- Award**
- George S. Richardson Medal
 - ACEC Missouri Grand Conceptor Award
 - Team STL Transportation Achievement Award
 - Transportation Achievement Facilities Award
 - Organizational Excellence Inclusion Advocacy Award
 - Concrete Council ACI Special Award
 - AASHTO Presidents Transportation for Performance Excellence
 - WTS Advancing Women in Transportation Award

- Project/Group Acknowledged**
- Mississippi River Bridge
 - Mississippi River Bridge
 - MoDOT & IDOT
 - Mississippi River Bridge
 - MoDOT
 - Blanchette Bridge
 - Raising the Spirit of St. Louis
 - External Civil Rights

ACEC Honor Award Parsons
St. Charles Co. Business Spotlight Award

Route 364 Phase 3
Route 364 Phase 3



District Engineer Greg Horn kicks off the employee spring meetings held at the Barrett Station Facility on April 22.



Safety & Health Manager Scott Melton speaks with employees about safety product changes within the district.

Maintenance Worker's Passion Leads to Safety Recognition

We all have a passion for something. For Bellefontaine Maintenance Worker Lowell House, it is ensuring that his entire work team goes home safely every day. His commitment to teaching safety in his building has earned him recognition as Safety Employee of the Month for March.

House serves as the On-Boarding mentor and CDL instructor for his building. In his training sessions with new employees, he emphasizes the importance of wearing personal protective equipment and safe driving procedures. He is the first to respond to new safety ideas and always provides beneficial feedback at morning musters and building safety meetings.

“Lowell is always willing to give a helping hand without being asked. I, along with my crew leaders, nominated him for this recognition. We appreciate his passion for safety and it shows in everything that he does,” said Tony Carusa, Bellefontaine maintenance supervisor.

In addition to the recognition, House will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.



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Southwest District

Southwest District at Work



SAFETY FIRST (upper left) – Senior Traffic Technician LeAnn Blankenship works a recent safety event for employees of the John Deere Reman facilities in Springfield and Strafford. (Photo/David Mitchell)

READY, SET, GO! (upper right) – Regional Counsel Executive Assistant Michelle Mullings times a John Deere employee trying to complete a puzzle while wearing 'drunk goggles' at a recent safety event in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)

MAKING HIS PITCH (lower left) - Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell (right) explains his project tracking innovation to State Maintenance Engineer Beth Wright at the DOMInno meeting in Springfield April 28-30. See story below about Southwest District winners. (Photo/David Mitchell)

National Research Group Says State's Transportation Problems Will Worsen Without Funding Increase

by David Mitchell

Springfield area drivers are spending \$1,100 each per year as a consequence of Missouri's deteriorating highways and bridges.

That was the message in a report from the national transportation research group, TRIP, delivered at a news conference April 30 attended by southwest Missouri transportation and community leaders.

The TRIP report found 22 percent of Missouri's major locally- and state-maintained roads are in poor condition and 23 percent of the state's bridges are

“structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.”

While the report looked at the state as a whole, there was particular attention focused on conditions in Jefferson City, Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis.

According to the group’s research, the condition of roads and bridges is costing taxpayers \$4.5 billion a year in vehicle operating costs, traffic crashes and congestion-related delays.



Rocky Moretti (right), TRIP Director of Policy and Research, talks with reporters in Springfield about his organization's report on the need for increased funding for Missouri transportation. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Southwest District Engineer Becky Baltz, discusses Missouri's transportation funding situation with reporters in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)

"If you allow the roads to slip into poor condition, those costs go up dramatically," said TRIP's Rocky Moretti, Director of Policy and Research.

One funding option being considered in Jefferson City would only cost Missouri drivers an additional \$15 per year in fuel taxes to support and maintain the transportation system.

Senate Bill 540, sponsored by Sen. Doug Libla, R-District 25, raises the tax on gasoline by 1.5 cents to 18.8 cents per gallon and on diesel fuel by 3.5 cents to 20.8 cents per gallon.

"Missouri has the seventh largest highway system in the country," Becky Baltz, Southwest District Engineer, said to reporters, "but is ranked 46th in funds spent per mile."

"Safer roads and better infrastructure are essential to the economic growth of the Springfield region," said Matt Morrow, president of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. "This is why the chamber has long advocated for a solution that would address the state's critical transportation funding gap."

TRIP's full report can be seen [here](#).

Two Southwest District Innovations Are Statewide Winners

by David Mitchell

The Southwest District is boasting two statewide winners in the Innovations Challenge at the 2015 DOMInno meeting held in Springfield April 28-30.



Rear-facing camera mounted on side mirror of truck pulling a tow plow.

The idea behind the challenge is to recognize employee-initiated ideas that improve productivity, safety and efficiency in MoDOT operations.

The district submitted a total of 10 entries this year.

One winner came from Springfield Maintenance, where Maintenance Crew Leader Ben Arnall attached a small backward-looking camera and monitor to a truck with a tow plow.

"We're able to keep our eyes forward on the road," Arnall said. "When you're looking across your body (at the mirrors), you're not actually paying attention to what's in front of you."

The other is an adjustable guardrail, submitted by Nevada Senior Construction Technician Chad Mays and Transportation Project Designer Aaron Jaeger.

Their innovation allows MoDOT crews to adjust the height of a

guardrail following resurfacing projects or other circumstances without replacing the guardrail, posts, rail blocks or hardware.

They tested their idea in Taney County on a \$64,000, 4,700 foot project. They saved more than \$31,000 in materials and labor.

This “stands to save the entire state millions on future projects,” said Assistant District Engineer Andrew Mueller, “by allowing the same guardrail to simply be adjusted, rather than replaced.”

The statewide winners receive \$425.



Chad Mays explaining the adjustable guardrail during the Innovations Challenge at the DOMInno meeting in Springfield. (Photo/Steve Bushko)

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Southeast District

Southeast Receives Top Honors at Innovations Challenge

Despite the steep competition at this year’s Statewide Innovations Challenge Showcase, three of the Southeast District’s innovations received top honors.

“We enjoyed sharing our ideas to help employees complete their jobs better, faster, cheaper and safer and appreciated the recognition we received,” said Benji Philpot, the SE District’s Innovations Challenge Coordinator. “In addition, I think everyone came away from the competition with a new idea or something to implement in their area. It was a win-win for all of the participants.”

GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker

The GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker won the first place prize in the “Tool and Equipment” category, receiving a \$10,000 check for the team’s maintenance area. In addition, the innovation received the People’s Choice Award.

The innovation identifies potential hazards while mowing on the right-of-way. A fish finder was installed on tractors to mark these obstacles. Natural gas lines, electric guy wires, phone pedestals, cross pipe and washouts, can be identified and marked with a GPS location on a five-inch high definition screen. Each hazard has its own symbol on the screen, so it’s easy to determine with only a glance at the screen. The screens have been installed at eye level on the right side of the canopy post. If the GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker needs to be removed, it does have a quick attach/detach handle. It is also waterproof, which allows for use in an open station tractor.

Congratulations to Shawn Shipley, Jeffrey Strong, William Scharnhorst, Chaseton Rogers, Dillan Collins, Kody Decker, Luke Cooley and Andy Boyd of the Dora Maintenance Facility for receiving top honors!

Material Load Indicator Light

The Material Load Indicator Light received statewide recognition in the “Tool and Equipment” category, as well as the Director’s Safety Award.



Click the image above to view a video of the Material Load Indicator Light or visit <https://youtu.be/YtcPZNTijFg>.



The GPS Roadside Obstacle Marker won the first place prize in the “Tool and Equipment” category, along with a \$10,000 check for the team’s maintenance area.

This innovation is a sensor mounted inside the spreader bed that indicates when material inside the bed is low. When the spreader bed is two-thirds empty the sensor will activate a light mounted on the outside of the bed warning the driver that the bed is nearly out of material.

By eliminating the need for operators to climb on snow and ice covered trucks, the Material Load Indicator Light improves safety and reduces the risk of injury due to slips, trips and falls.

Thanks to Greg Buckner and Jason Norris of

the Winona Maintenance Facility for developing an innovation to help MoDOT crews go home safely at the end of each work day!

Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck

The Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck was named among the top four in the “Productivity” category.

The Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck can be a distributor truck during the warm months, and a snow plow truck for winter operations. Beds detach using jacks and quick couplers put to work a distributor that normally sits idle all winter in the building.

Normally during the winter months, the distributor trucks sit idle in the maintenance buildings getting no utilization. Trucks can be easily converted to plow snow—giving the district additional resources during winter months.



The Multi-Use Snow Removal Truck was named among the top four in the “Productivity” category.

The units can be purchased from two different companies or built in-house by modifying existing fleet trucks.

Hats off to Paul Keena, Jimmy Robinson and Nick Meese for developing and sharing this innovation that allows MoDOT to make better use of its equipment and save money!

Route 19 Shannon County Bridge Work

MoDOT, Commission Focus on Safety and Economic Development

The Southeast District has been working over the past month to address bridge issues in Shannon County. Recent inspections of Route 19 bridges over Sinking Creek, Round Spring and Current River have the Department working to address safety concerns while preventing weight restrictions for heavy truck traffic.

"Following a routine inspection, we reduced the Route 19 bridge over Sinking Creek to one lane with a weight restriction of 20 tons," said Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge. "The weight restriction on this bridge created a long detour route that is adversely impacting economics in the area."

Rutledge says MoDOT worked with multiple agencies to gain clearance for a temporary bridge to be constructed. With proper clearance and a contractor in place, work is underway and it will be ready for traffic by Memorial Day weekend. Once constructed, the current weight restriction will be lifted.

During construction of the temporary bridge, access to the Sinking Creek Campground and gravel bar will be closed through construction.

"The temporary structure will allow heavy truck traffic to avoid lengthy detours," he said. "Until funding for construction of a new bridge becomes available, the bypass will remain in place. That could take years."

MoDOT also inspected the bridge over Round Spring. Constructed in 1930, this bridge features two lanes and is 20-feet wide.

"While we do not have restrictions on this bridge at this time," said Rutledge. "It is beginning to show the same issues that resulted in the load posting on the Sinking Creek bridge."

He maintains that MoDOT will continue inspections on the bridge and will assess what work may need to be completed in the future. However, with the current funding situation the Department faces, closing the bridge indefinitely in the future is a possibility.



Route 19 Sinking Creek Bridge in Shannon County.

A request for a lane reduction from the Shannon County Commission prompted the Department to address safety concerns with the bridge over Current River. MoDOT officials discussed the commission's request and agreed that signing this bridge for one-lane traffic would increase safety in the area. MoDOT stresses that there are no load restrictions associated with the lane reduction.

"We met with MoDOT officials earlier in April to discuss the other bridges in the area," said Shannon County Commissioner Jeff Cowen. "When the Current River Bridge came up, we requested it be reduced to one lane of traffic to increase safety in the area."

The bridge on Route 19 over Current River, located near the Round Spring Campground, is striped and signed for one-lane traffic.

The bridge was built in 1924 and is 18-feet wide. Since 1924, vehicles have gotten larger and with tractor trailer trucks frequently traveling in the area, reducing the number of lanes will make this area safer for every traveler.

Motorists are urged to use caution and watch for opposing traffic when traveling in the area.

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